

**Dissertation Marking Criteria – Level 7**

*N.B. These marking criteria are based on the QAA Framework for higher education qualification in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008)*

	<b>Structure &amp; organisation</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Application of knowledge &amp; understanding (incl. critical reflection)</b>	<b>Analysis (including critical evaluation)</b>	<b>Use of source material</b>
The student should demonstrate:	Adherence to the presentation guidelines; conforms to the conventions for Masters level work.  (NB. the mark for structure and organisation does not relate to the content of the assignment)	Originality in developing or applying ideas, often in a research context across a breadth of relevant literature.	Originality in the application of knowledge and understanding, demonstrating problem solving abilities in new, complex or unfamiliar environments within broader or multi-disciplinary contexts.	The ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexities; to formulate judgements using underpinning knowledge; to communicate conclusions to specialist & non-specialist audiences. Critical awareness of current problems at the forefront of their academic discipline/field of study or area of professional practice.	Discernment in selecting sources and the use of that material to support complex discussions. Integration of knowledge gained through reading, research and reflection to support arguments, formulate judgements and conclusions. The ability to critically evaluate current evidence, included in the work, relevant to the academic discipline/field of study or area of professional practice.

<b>Grade (%) Classification</b>	Please indicate what % you would attribute to each of the criteria. For example 'Analysis' (Outstanding 90%) the mark awarded for Analysis would be 27% of the total mark for the work.
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	Structure & organisation	Knowledge	Application of knowledge & understanding (incl. critical reflection)	Analysis (including critical evaluation)	Use of source material
80-100% (Outstanding)	Structure and organisation is coherent, polished and fluent.	Knowledge displayed is comprehensive, coherent, polished and fluent.	Application of knowledge and understanding is comprehensive, coherent, polished and fluent.	Analysis is comprehensive, coherent, polished and fluent.	Use of source material is comprehensive, coherent, polished and fluent.
70-79% (Very good)	Structure and organisation is very good, but lacks the fluency or polish of the highest band.	Knowledge displayed is very good, but lacks the fluency or polish of the highest band.	Application of knowledge and understanding is very good, but lacks the fluency or polish of the highest band.	Analysis is very good, but lacks the fluency or polish of the highest band.	Use of source material is very good, but lacks the polish of the highest band.
60-69% (Good)	Structure and organisation is good but may have some omissions.	Knowledge displayed is good and shows independent thought but may have some omissions.	Application of knowledge and understanding is good and shows independent thought but may have some omissions.	Analysis is good and shows independent thought but may have some omissions.	Use of source material is good and shows independent thought but may have some omissions.
50-59% (Adequate)	Structure and organisation is adequate.	Knowledge displayed is adequate but work is predominantly descriptive and relies heavily on given source material.	Application of knowledge and understanding is adequate but work is predominantly descriptive and relies heavily on given source material.	Analysis is adequate but work is predominantly descriptive and relies heavily on given source material.	Use of source material is adequate but work demonstrates over-reliance on this and is predominantly descriptive.
40-49% (Inadequate)	<p>A <b>marginal fail at postgraduate level</b> demonstrates elements of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited independent, critical and original thought</li> <li>Limited understanding and use of analytical and research methods</li> <li>Limited organisation and presentation of complex arguments</li> <li>Limited knowledge of the subject and use of source material</li> <li>Limited development and synthesis of ideas</li> <li>Poor standards of structure and presentation in terms of: typography, syntax and punctuation, and the use of bibliographical and referencing procedures</li> <li>In addition, where original data are provided, its collection, presentation and analysis are poor</li> </ol> <p>A mark between 40 and 49 provides students with an opportunity to make amendments which would allow a pass mark to be reached.</p> <p><b>Please note that this is the only opportunity that students have to make changes to their dissertation that may result in a different mark being awarded. If successful this mark will be capped at 50.</b></p>				

	<p>When awarding a marginal fail students should be able to undertake the work required to bring their dissertation up to a pass level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• without physical access to the University's facilities</li> <li>• without further supervision</li> <li>• with no more than two weeks full-time equivalent effort</li> </ul> <p>Revisions considered suitable include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) editorial corrections: eg use of English, style, spelling, grammar, word limit, restructuring, referencing</li> <li>b) further theoretical analysis/better arguments</li> <li>c) better critical reflection on the work itself (eg research methods)</li> <li>d) better use of literature</li> </ol> <p>If the work required to achieve a pass requires more time or support, taking into consideration the above requirements, then an outright fail should be awarded (ie a mark below 40).</p> <p>In awarding a marginal fail students are not expected to carry out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) further data collection</li> <li>b) additional experimental work</li> <li>c) an extended review of the literature</li> </ol> <p>If students are required to undertake any of the above in order to pass, then an outright <b>fail</b> should be awarded (ie a mark below 40).</p>
<p>0-39% (Poor)</p>	<p>A <b>failed</b> submission demonstrates elements of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of independent, critical and original thought</li> <li>2. Lack of understanding and use of analytical and research methods</li> <li>3. Lack of organisation and presentation of complex arguments</li> <li>4. Lack of knowledge of the subject and use of source material</li> <li>5. Lack of development and synthesis of ideas</li> <li>6. Very poor standards of structure and presentation in terms of: typography, syntax and punctuation, and the use of bibliographical and referencing procedures</li> <li>7. In addition, where original data are provided, its collection, presentation and analysis are very poor</li> </ol> <p>In addition the dissertation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• includes irrelevant points whilst missing the major points</li> <li>• is devoid of independent thought and ideas</li> <li>• includes inaccuracies</li> </ul> <p>There is no opportunity for re-assessment with a mark below 39%</p>